

S I M I A S P H I N X ?



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Dentes Primores utrinque quatuor, approximati.

Laniarii solitarii, longiores, hinc remoti.

Molares obtusi.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 34.

Cl. *Mammalia*.—Ord. *Primates*.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SIMIA SEMICAUDATA, ore vibrifato, unguibus acuminatis, natibus calvis ?

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 35.

Simiarum quæ communiter Papiones nominantur, duæ sunt species adeo inter se similes, ut revera licet diversæ, plerumque tamen ab auctõribus, qui suis oculis visas sibi invicem collatas non sedulo examinerint, pro una eademque specie descriptæ sint : Simia nempe *Sphinx* et Simia *Maimon* LINNÆI.

Præcipue distinguuntur diversa magnitudine : Sphinge enim multo minor est Maimon : sed discrepat et vultus color : Sphinx enim nasum habet medium sanguinci ruboris, Maimon obscure tantum incarnatum. Sphingis etiam natibus multo vividior est

est rubor, regionique lumborum color omnino cæruleo-violaceus, qui in iisdem partibus alterius vix et ne vix conspici potest. Ad cætera vero adeo sunt affines hæ duæ species ut non mirum sit si incertum discrimen plurimos primo visu fefellerit.

Rarissimus est Simiæ Sphingis in Europa conspectus; Maimonis frequentior, et fere quotidianus. Utræque Africæ calidiores regiones inhabitant. Speciatim notandum est nomina et synonyma harum specierum scriptores communiter permiscuisse: LINNÆI enim Maimon multo melius cum hac nostra specie convenit quam cum illa quam ipse nomine Sphingis descripsit. Suspicio etiam (ut plane rem confitear,) hanc ipsam speciem hic depictam non esse Sphingem LINNÆI. Ad altitudinem quinque pedum et ultra crescit Sphinx; Maimon vix tres superat.





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THE
VARIEGATED BABOON.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Front-Teeth in each jaw 4, placed near together.
Canine-Teeth solitary, longer than the others,
distant from the remaining teeth, or grinders.
Grinders obtuse.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SHORT-TAILED WHISKERED SIMIA,
bare behind, with pointed nails, and violet-
coloured loins,

GREAT BABOON,

Pennant Hist. Quadr. p. 173.

Amongst the species of Simiæ called Baboons there are two, which though really very distinct from each other, have yet so great a general resemblance, that some authors, not having had opportunities of examining and comparing both species, have confounded them with each other; these two animals are the Simia Sphinx and the Simia Maimon of LINNÆUS.

The most striking difference is in point of size; the Sphinx being by much the largest of the two; but there is also a considerable difference in the colour of
the

the face: the middle of the nose, which in the Maimon is merely of a dull flesh-colour, is in the Sphinx of a sanguine red: the hinder part of the Sphinx is also of a much more intense red than in the Maimon; and the skin round the region of the loins is tinged with a very strong and fine violet-colour, which is scarce, if at all perceptible in the Maimon. In other particulars, they so much agree that it is no wonder they should have been frequently mistaken for one and the same species.

The S. Sphinx is a much rarer animal than the Maimon, and indeed is but very seldom to be seen, in Europe; whereas the Maimon is not uncommon in most exhibitions of animals. Both species are natives of the hotter parts of Africa. It should be particularly observed that a general confusion seems to take place in the descriptions and synonyms of authors relative to these two animals; for the description given by LINNÆUS of his S. Maimon agrees much better with our supposed Sphinx than with the species so named by LINNÆUS. I am even inclined to suspect after all, that the S. Sphinx of LINNÆUS cannot be the animal here represented. The Sphinx grows to the height of upwards of 5 feet: the Maimon rarely exceeds 2 or 3 at farthest.